

Jones expressed concerns about her communication level with the Defendant, the Court does not find sufficient basis to remove her as counsel.

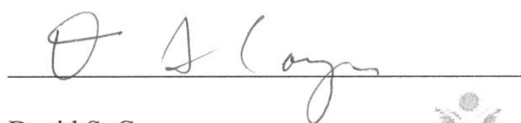
The Court acknowledged the serious nature of the charges and penalties that Defendant faces, but advised him that appointment of new counsel would not change those circumstances and that removing counsel at this stage could actually be detrimental to his case.

“Because the right to choose counsel is not absolute, it necessarily follows that a defendant does not have an absolute right to substitution of counsel. As a general rule, a defendant must show good cause in requesting a new appointed lawyer.” United States v. Mullen, 32 F.3d 891, 895 (4th Cir. 1994). Here, Defendant’s concerns do not establish good cause for the Court to appoint new counsel. Based upon the foregoing, the Motion is DENIED.

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to counsel for the parties; and to the Honorable Frank D. Whitney

SO ORDERED.

Signed: February 26, 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. S. Cayer", is written over a horizontal line.

David S. Cayer
United States Magistrate Judge

